

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

6326535X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 12 May 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 15 and 23 April 1954, no movements were observed in the Neuglienicke sector of Schweinrich troop training grounds.
2. Tank firing was daily practiced in the Schweinrich sector. The training area was blocked by barriers guarded by sentries. A new wood camp consisting of underground quartering facilities was under construction 1.5 km east of the former Hamelstall forest office. The new installation included kitchens with a bakery and butchery. The camp was partially occupied by those troops who engaged in training in the Schweinrich sector. As the boundaries of the forest sections were not known, no pin-point location could be determined. 1
3. The following three methods of tank practice firing were daily observed in the Rheinsberg-Zechow-Fraunsberg sector:
  - a. Four tanks, completely camouflaged, were emplaced in hollows. Upon a signal, soldiers rushed to the tanks, removed the camouflage and advanced on the tanks about 100 meters. Then the tanks stopped, firing three shots at intervals of 3 to 5 minutes.
  - b. The original position was the same as in paragraph a. However, the tanks advanced about 100 meters, fired one shot, and then twice advanced 50 meters, firing one shot after each stop.
  - c. The four tanks had left the hollows. Then ten to 15 soldiers armed with submachine guns assembled behind each tank. The tanks slowly advanced about 200 meters, stopped and fired, whereupon the soldiers left forward on either side of the tanks, firing at targets.

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The practices were supervised by a colonel who drove jeep

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1. Comment. It is possible that tank details of the 18th Mech Div conducted combat firing in the Schweinrich sector in mid- and late April.
2. Comment. Units of the 12th Gds Tank Div continued combat firing practices in the Rheinsberg-Fraunsberg sector up to 23 April. It appears that the boundary of Wittstock troop training grounds around this sector was extended to the east.

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